

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 01075 261811Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /063 W

----- 061001

P R 261725Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1871

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1075

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PO

SUBJ: INFORMATION MINISTER'S VIEWS ON PRESS

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES GAVE HIS VIEWS ON INFORMATION DURING CONFIRMATION OF NEW MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND INFORMATION. NEW INFORMATION MINISTER COMMENTED ON PRESS LAW AND CRITICIZED FOREIGN PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES SPOKE AT SWEARING-IN FEB 24 OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE SILVANO RIBEIRO AND INFORMATION MINISTER JORGE CORREIA JESUINO.

2. PRESIDENT STATED THAT FUNCTION OF INFORMATION MINISTRY IS THEORETICALLY SIMPLE, BUT IN PRACTICE NEW MINISTER WILL BE FACED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 01075 261811Z

WITH "SERIOUS AND COMPLEX PROBLEMS, FOR AT THIS TIME INFORMATION

IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR COUNTRY." PRESIDENT ADDED THAT HE CONVINCED THAT IF INFORMATION MINISTRY NOT DIRECTED WITH "GREAT SENSE, CARE, AND INTELLIGENCE, THE PROBLEMS WE ARE FACING TODAY WILL BECOME MUCH MORE SERIOUS."

3. PRESIDENT'S CONCERN OVER POLITICAL SLANT OF MEDIA EVIDENT. HE STATED THAT PORTUGAL NEEDS HONEST NEWS SO PEOPLE MAY FORM POLITICAL OPINIONS AND VOTE. "BECAUSE OF SHORTCOMINGS OF WHICH WE ARE ALL AWARE, UNTIL NOW THE MEDIA HAVE NOT HAD THE IMPARTIALITY, OPENNESS, AND FRANKNESS THAT ALL DESIRE."

4. DISCUSSING INFORMATION PROBLEMS, CORREIA JESUINO SAID PRESS OFTEN ACCUSED OF PARTISAN REPORTING BUT ACCUSATION NEVER SUPPORTED BY CONCRETE FACTS AND DOCUMENTED ANALYSIS. HE STATED HIS MINISTRY WILL NOT BE JUST A PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE BUT WILL RATHER BE THE POLITICAL CONSCIENCE OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS. "WE WOULD LIKE TO CENTRALIZE INFORMATION AND THUS RESPOND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TO THE PEOPLE, WITH TIMELINESS AND EXACTNESS. OUR AMBITION IS TO HAVE A REGULATORY FUNCTION OVER PUBLIC DIALOGUES, WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, FOR ONLY THUS DE WE JUSTIFY THE BILATERAL CONCEPT OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION."

5. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE, MINISTER OF INFORMATION STATED NEW PRESS LAW "PUTS TRUST IN POLITICAL MAJORITY," AND IS COMING OUT AT TIME WHEN "MILITARY IS ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL" AND "THE SPECTER OF MILITARY DICTATORSHIP IS BEGINNING TO BE MALICIOUSLY SUGGESTED." JESUINO ADDED THAT DISAPPEARANCE OF SOME "ECONOMICALLY NON-VIABLE" NEWSPAPERS IS ALREADY ANTICIPATED.

6. JESUINO STATED THAT OUTGOING SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION GUILHERME CONCEICAO SILVA AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUIS DE BARROS WOULD NOT BE REPLACED AND THEIR EXIT HAS NO "POLITICAL DIMENSIONS." MINISTER HOPES TO REDUCE BUREAUCRACY AND CENTRALIZE OPERATIONS.

7. ASKED IF HE WOULD CONSIDER TAKING ACTION AGAINST FOREIGN PRESS FOR "HAVING SHOWN A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD PORTUGAL," JESUINO, MAKING REFERENCE TO PAST EXPERIENCE IN ANGOLA WITH "THE HOSTILITY OF FOREIGN PROFESSIONALS," DESCRIBED FOREIGN PRESS IN PORTUGAL AS "HYPER-

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 01075 261811Z

CRITICAL, IRONICALLY INDULGENT, PATERNALISTIC, AND MALEVOLENTLY SKEPTICAL. WE ARE REACHING A STATE OF STRICTNESS IN WHICH WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO APPLY CORRECTIVE MEASURES TO THE SERIOUS ERRORS COMMITTED." MINISTER STATED NOW THAT REVOLUTION CONSOLIDATED, PORTUGAL IS SEEN TO REPRESENT A POTENTIALLY CONTAGIOUS THREAT AND FOREIGN PRESS IS FULL OF ADVICE FOR INTERNAL MEASURES.

8. COMMENT: IT IS TOO SOON TO KNOW WHAT LINE JESUINO WILL TAKE  
ON CRITICAL ISSUE OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. IN LIGHT OF HIS  
STRONG CRITICISM OF FOREIGN PRESS, SOME FOREIGN JOURNALISTS  
ALREADY FEAR POSSIBLE RETALIATION AGAINST THEM BY GOP.  
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, INFORMATION MEDIA, LAW, INFORMATION CONTROL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LISBON01075  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750067-1117  
**From:** LISBON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750211/aaaaajuv.tel  
**Line Count:** 121  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INFORMATION MINISTER'S VIEWS ON PRESS SUMMARY: PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES GAVE HIS VIEWS ON INFORMATION  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PINT, PO, (GOMES, COSTA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006